

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01 JUSE-00 /077 W

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R 271538Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7532

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS MUNICH 2304

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS ATTACKS SCHMIDT ON LOCKHEED

1. CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS USED FORUM OF GIANT (NEARLY 25,000) RALLY IN MUNICH'S MARIENPLATZ SEPTEMBER 26 TO DELIVER HARD-HITTING ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR.

2. STRAUSS CHARGED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY KNOWN SINCE MARCH THAT THE SUSPICION THAT USG'S FILES ON LOCKHEED CONTAINED INFORMATION DEROGATORY TO STRAUSS WAS UNTRUE, PERSONALLY INTERFERED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG IN ORDER TO DELAY TRANSFER OF THESE FILES TO BONN. STRAUSS FURTHER CLAIMED THAT USG WAS PREPARED IN APRIL TO SIGN ESSENTIALLY SAME AGREEMENT (WITH FRG) WHICH IT SIGNED SEPTEMBER 24.

3. STRAUSS SAID THERE WERE ONLY TWO MUTUALLY CONSISTENT EXPLANATIONS OF SCHMIDT'S CONDUCT POSSIBLE: (A) THE FRG GOVERNMENT WANTED TO SAVE THE LOCKHEED ISSUE FOR THE CAMPAIGN;
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OR (B) THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO DELAY THE CONSEQUENCES OF

THE TRANSFER IN ORDER TO PREVENT CERTAIN "STRANGE CONTEXTS"
FROM COMING TO ATTENTION OF FRG PUBLIC BEFORE THE OCTOBER
3 ELECTIONS. IN THIS REGARD STRAUSS ASKED WHAT CAUSED SCHMIDT
(AS FRG MINDEF) TO RECEIVE THE DIRECTOR OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT
FIRM ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF PRINCE BERNHARD AND TO WRITE
THEREAFTER A LETTER TO BERNHARD IN WHICH SUM OF 100 MILLION
D.M. IN FRG TAX REVENUES WAS "PROMISED" FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A WEAPONS SYSTEM OF WHICH THE BUNDESWEHR HAD NO RPT NO NEED.

4. COMMENT. STRAUSS HAS CLEARLY GONE OVER TO OFFENSIVE ON
LOCKHEED ISSUE. IN MARIENPLATZ SPEECH AS WELL AS AT PRESS
CONFERENCE AT MUNICH PRESS CLUB EARLIER SEPTEMBER 26,
STRAUSS GAVE EVERY INDICATION OF BEING CONFIDENT NOTHING
IN USG DOCUMENTS ON LOCKHEED COULD DO HIM FURTHER POLITICAL
HARM.
BETTS

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